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ABSTRACT

Two studies examined homelessness in Augusta, Georgia. The Key Informant Survey, conducted in 1987, involved interviewing individuals (N=42) knowledgeable about homeless people in the community. In the Shelter and Street Surveys of homeless people, conducted in March (N=51) and July (N=71) of 1988, homeless subjects were interviewed concerning demographics; history of housing and homelessness; family and friendships; employment, income, and other financial assistance; perceptions of shelter services in Augusta; history of treatment for addiction and mental illness; general health status and access to health care; and experiences with the criminal justice system. The findings revealed that the homeless subjects were predominantly male and unmarried. There were nearly twice as many homeless persons in shelters and on the street during July as during March. It appears that the street population of homeless increases significantly during the summer. This population was found to be extremely poor with many reporting lengthy periods of unemployment and homelessness. A substantial proportion of Augusta's homeless reported experience with treatment in substance abuse and/or psychiatric settings. (Survey instruments are appended. Further study will hope to include additional findings in the areas of general health status, access to health care, mental health status, perception of shelter services, social networks, and experiences with the criminal justice system.) (NB)

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HOMELESSNESS IN AUGUSTA, GEORGIA

Preliminary Report

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CG 022122

May 1989

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ABOUT THIS REPORT

This is the first report to Mayor Charles DeVaney on the results of a study of homelessness in downtown Augusta sponsored by the City of Augusta and the School of Nursing, Medical College of Georgia. The authors initiated the Augusta Homeless Study in response to the findings of the Georgia Department of Human Resources community planning committee charged with determining the needs of Augusta's homeless mentally ill. This committee, chaired by Phyllis Holliday, Executive Director, Mental Health Association of Greater Augusta, cited in its September 1986 report an urgent need "to identify and describe the unique characteristics of the homeless population in this area and to provide direction for long-term planning" (Holliday, Lee & Jenkins, 1986). Information about the homeless mentally ill, and the Augusta homeless population in general, was very limited and anecdotal in nature.

The first step in the study was to interview individuals who were knowledgeable about homeless people in our community. This was called the Key Informant Survey. It was conducted in 1987 and provided background information necessary to implement the next step, the Shelter and Street Surveys of homeless people, conducted on March 10, 1988, and July 19, 1988. Some aspects of the data collected in the interviews with the homeless are still being analyzed. The intense interest in the findings expressed by many led to a decision to release an early report. The data analysis completed thus far is presented in this preliminary report so that interested persons and agencies may begin reviewing the results now available.

Recommendations for action will be included in the final report. This study could not have been completed without the dedicated assistance and support of many individuals and groups in the Augusta community and consultation with other investigators having conducted similar projects in other parts of the country. Acknowledgements will be gratefully made in the final report.

S.A.G.
G.B.

May 1989
Augusta, Georgia

KEY INFORMANT SURVEY

While the investigators' primary goal was to describe homelessness in Augusta based on a survey of the homeless themselves, it was recognized that people who had knowledge of the homeless by virtue of their position, volunteer work, and other experiences would be able to provide much useful information. Such information included the approximate size of the population, places where homeless people might be found, and important considerations in approaching them. The key informant study interview guide developed for a statewide study of homelessness in Ohio was used (Roth, Bean, Lust, & Saveanu, 1985).

Research Plan

A purposive sampling plan was employed. The first key informants approached were identified using the membership list of the Georgia Department of Human Resources community planning committee responsible for addressing the needs of Augusta's homeless mentally ill (Holliday, Lee & Jenkins, 1986). A request to suggest other potential key informants was included in each interview. An important consideration in the process was to interview informants representative of the community and various services and agencies.

Informants were asked to estimate the size and composition of the homeless population with whom they had experience, and approximate the size of the overall population of homeless in Augusta. Informants had the opportunity to give their opinion regarding the major factors contributing to homelessness, problems that homeless people experience and the services most needed. They were asked to give as much detail as possible about where homeless people might be contacted for interviews. Other information requested included strategies in approaching homeless people, interviewing skills necessary, and safety considerations. Forty-two interviews were conducted with informants having a variety of service and agency affiliations (see **Table 1**).

The wide range in estimates of the size of the homeless population indicates there was no consensus on the approximate number of homeless people in Augusta. This was not surprising in light of the differing definitions of homelessness that those interviewed had. Some viewed homelessness as referring only to individuals who lived on the streets because they could not find any shelter, while others expressed a broader view of homelessness to include any person or family who did not have a

stable living arrangement. Moreover the informants had diverse backgrounds and experiences with the homeless which in part accounts for their differing perceptions of the problem. An advantage of this phase of the project was the opportunity to have full discussion of the problem from many points of view.

Table 1 Key Informant Interviews By Service/Agency Categories

Service/Agency Category	Percent	N=42
Mental Health	21.4	9
Shelter Housing	11.9	5
Soup Kitchens/Food Bank	4.2	6
Social Services	21.4	9
Urban Ministries	11.9	5
Law Enforcement	7.1	3
Hospital/Emergency	4.7	2
Other	7.1	3

Sixteen percent (7) were volunteers or otherwise had direct knowledge of the homeless through personal contacts, fifty-five percent (23) were administrators, and twenty-nine percent (12) were staff from selected human service organizations.

Findings

When the informants were asked to estimate the size of the homeless population in Augusta as a whole, only 22 believed they could offer an informed opinion. **Table 2** summarizes the estimates given.

Table 2 Key Informant Opinions On Approximate Size Of Homeless Population In Augusta

Estimate Range	Percent (N=22)
Fewer than 100	13.6
100-199	13.6
200-299	13.6
300-499	27.3
500-699	9.0
700 or more	22.7

REASONS FOR HOMELESSNESS

The most frequently cited reasons why people are homeless were: low incomes and unemployment, family problems, mental illness, and limited life skills. Unemployment, family conflict, and alcohol and drug abuse were rated as the most important factors contributing to homelessness. Health problems, getting housing or shelter, hunger and malnutrition, and emotional distress were mentioned most often as major problems experienced by homeless people. Informants felt the most needed services for the homeless were long-term comprehensive shelter accommodating families, short-term shelter with bathing and clothing available, and low-cost housing placement.

EFFECTIVENESS OF EXISTING SERVICES

Informants were asked to rate the effectiveness of existing services. **Table 3** lists a ranking of current services according to effectiveness as perceived by the informants.

TABLE 3 RANKING OF CURRENT SERVICES FOR THE HOMELESS IN AUGUSTA ACCORDING TO PERCEIVED EFFECTIVENESS

Soup Kitchens/Food Pantries	Very Effective
Emergency Room Services	Effective
Medical Treatment	Effective
Shelters for the Homeless	Effective
Financial Help	Not Effective
Job-Finding Assistance	Not Effective
Housing Assistance	Not Effective

When asked how existing services could be made more effective, the most frequent responses were:

(1) to improve and expand shelters and transitional housing to accommodate more homeless for longer periods of time,

(2) improve, expand, and coordinate a network of community services,

(3) increase community awareness of the problem such that the city and agencies both public and voluntary, begin to target more resources for the homeless, and

(4) improve job finding, training and access.

LOCATING THE HOMELESS

Although a number of locations were identified throughout the metropolitan area as being places where the homeless might be found, the downtown area, bordered by Fifteenth Street, Walton Way, East Boundary, and Reynolds Street was the primary geographical area identified where homeless would be found in Augusta. The two shelters, the Salvation Army and the Augusta Rescue Mission, and the soup kitchens are all in this area. Those homeless not sleeping in the shelters were said to be staying overnight in abandoned buildings, cars, parking areas, along both sides of the Savannah River in wooded areas, and other hidden locations.

SHELTER AND STREET SURVEYS

Introduction

There were two main goals for the shelter and street surveys. We sought to describe the social and demographic composition of the literal homeless in downtown Augusta and to describe the conditions and problems they experienced during winter and summer, the two seasons with the greatest extremes in weather. We expected seasonal differences in the homeless population based on what we were told during the key informant survey. The influx of migrants to pick peaches in South Carolina is well known to all those familiar with the problem of homelessness in downtown Augusta. This study focused only on homeless people found in downtown Augusta who did not have access to conventional housing but live mostly on the streets with some temporary access to night shelters. They represented the "literal" homeless who had no place to go.

Some of the literal homeless use the shelters to house themselves at night while others prefer to seek respite in abandoned buildings, cars, doorways or other secluded places. A few from time to time find temporary housing arrangements, moving back and forth between being homed and homeless. Some are virtually homeless all the time and others for only brief periods. In addition to the literal homeless, there is a much larger population of people who are at risk for becoming homeless. Reports from advocates for the homeless indicate that there are many poor persons who are at risk for homelessness at any point in time given one or more serious life events (Beaty, 1989; Hope & Young, 1986).

It was beyond the scope of this study to interview those who were not literally homeless but who were at high risk. Many of those at high risk for homelessness are believed to be women and children who temporarily find friends or others to lodge them. Also excluded from this study were those persons without homes who were in jails, mental institutions and shelters for battered women.

Research Plan

A study of the literal homeless must take into consideration the special characteristics of this segment of the population. These persons cannot be reached with conventional methods such as mail or phone surveys. Researchers in other cities interviewing the homeless have had the most success in locating this population at shelters and other service

sites (Research Atlanta, 1984; Bassuk, Rubin, & Laureat, 1986; Kroll, Carey, Hagedorn, Firedog & Benavides, 1986). Although this approach is effective in locating homeless people for inter-views, it is known that a number of homeless prefer not to use shelter services. For this reason, selecting shelter occupants for interview may result in a biased sample and thereby limit the usefulness of the findings.

A study in one major city, Chicago, used a method where homeless people were located and interviewed in a representative sample of city shelters (Rossi, Fisher & Willis, 1986). In addition, on the same night as the shelter survey, a representative sample of city blocks were thoroughly searched to locate and interview homeless people in any public place such as parks, abandoned cars and buildings. The result was the first study of homeless in an American city to reach what could be described as an unbiased sample of the total literal homeless population (Rossi, Wright, Fisher, & Willis, 1987).

The Chicago Study was used as a model as we planned the Augusta surveys. Our situation differed from Chicago in two major respects. First, Chicago has a large number of shelters and Augusta has only two. For this reason, coverage of the shelters did not present a problem. Secondly, in Chicago substantial grant funds permitted a systematic sampling of all city blocks for the street search. In Augusta there were resources sufficient to conduct only a search of city blocks where the majority of homeless could be expected to be found. However, based on the Chicago experience, we knew that it was imperative to plan for a thorough street search of as large a geographical area as possible.

In summary, the plan was to survey homeless persons found in the two shelters, and on the streets in the downtown area on one night in Winter, 1988 and one night in Summer, 1988. This was viewed as an initial step in gathering some accurate data about this population. Whereas Chicago was able to estimate the size of its homeless population through a more comprehensive searching of city blocks, our design permitted us to describe an unbiased sample of the homeless using the shelters and found on the streets in the immediate downtown area. This approach did not allow for an accurate projection of the size of the homeless population in the entire city of Augusta.

SAMPLING STRATEGY

Findings of the key informant survey indicated that the homeless congregated in the downtown area. In order to access a sample of the literal homeless in downtown Augusta a four step strategy was required: (1) obtaining support and assistance of the city government and police department, (2) identifying the shelters and specific geographical areas to be included (3) enlisting the support of the shelter operators, and (4) recruiting, organizing and training interview teams.

City Support

Mayor Charles DeVaney pledged the city's support in the conduct of a systematic study of the literal homeless in downtown Augusta. A grant of $1,000 and the resources of the police department for street searches on two nights were allocated to the research project. He also enlisted the cooperation of the Augusta Police Department to assist in planning for the street survey. With police assistance, specific locations where the homeless might be found were visited and noted. The geographical area identified for the study is shown in **Figure 1** (see page 8).

This area was determined based on where the largest number of homeless would be found and availability of police resources to provide safety for the interview teams. The population of interest in the designated downtown area included the overnight residents of the Salvation Army and the Augusta Rescue Mission, and all other homeless persons in public places within this area.

Shelter Support

We were very fortunate to receive the full cooperation of Captain Jack Butler, Major Gilbert Watson, and Captain Bert Tanner, all of whom had responsibility for managing the Salvation Army shelter during the period the study was conducted. Rev. Charles and Mrs. Linda Michael of the Augusta Rescue Mission also provided access to their shelter residents.

Interview Teams

In order to reach a sample and ensure cooperation of homeless persons for interviews, organization and training of interview teams was considered crucial. We recruited, organized and trained interview teams. Each team consisted of at least two members. One member was trained to use the questionnaire and conduct the interview. The second member was

trained to ensure that during the entire process the rights of homeless persons would be protected. These two members constituted a complete interview team for the shelter surveys. For the street surveys, a third member of the interview team was an officer of the Augusta Police Department whose role was to protect the safety of the interview team and anyone encountered in the search. Each officer was oriented to the study and his responsibility to provide for safety.

Implementation of this sampling strategy promised some success in reaching an unbiased sample of the shelter population and at least some inclusion of homeless persons on the streets away from the shelter areas. The strategy included an emphasis on respecting the rights of the homeless and providing for the safety of all concerned.

INTERVIEW QUESTIONNAIRE

Each homeless person participating in the study was interviewed using a structured questionnaire developed for the Chicago Homeless Study (1985-1986) (Rossi, Fisher & Willis, 1986). Each informant was asked to provide information in the following general categories:

(1) demographic information
(2) history of housing and homelessness
(3) family and friendships
(4) employment, income, and other financial assistance
(5) perceptions of shelter services in Augusta
(6) history of treatment for addiction and mental illness
(7) general health status and access to health care, and
(8) experiences with the criminal justice system.

While the Chicago study report indicated that the typical interview would last about 15 minutes, our experience was that each interview lasted about thirty minutes. Homeless people completing the questionnaire were paid $5.00 for their participation. Questionnaires were coded using the informants' birth dates so that anyone interviewed more than one time could be identified. In a few instances, duplicate interviews were found and excluded from the data analysis.

PROTECTION OF INFORMANT RIGHTS

Informants for this study constituted an extremely vulnerable population. They were individuals whose personal situations dictated that

they used the shelters for the homeless or who sheltered themselves in abandoned buildings, cars, trucks or public places. We recognized that a number of these individuals would be disenfranchised from their families and society for a variety of reasons. Some would be mentally ill and suffering from drug and alcohol abuse and would have been institutionalized either in a mental hospital or detoxification unit. Others would have been imprisoned or found guilty by a court. Likewise many of the homeless would be in poor physical health and without adequate health care. Although they may not be dangerous to others, it could be anticipated that they would be fearful of strangers. Therefore approaching homeless persons for an interview was a highly sensitive matter requiring special attention to alleviating their fears and distrust.

While the shelters provided a safe environment, there were potential risks on the streets for informants and the interview teams. Safety of all concerned was a primary consideration in the planning and conduct of the street survey. Police officers were organized to escort street interview teams and make judgments regarding safety when approaching the homeless and investigating places where they might be.

All informants, whether in the shelters or encountered on the streets, were approached in a respectful manner and not coerced in any way to participate. Request for participation included an offer of $5.00 for their contribution to the study and a guarantee of confidentiality regarding their identity and any information they provided. Each interview team included an advocate whose only role in the interview process was to ensure that the rights of the homeless would be protected. The Medical College of Georgia Human Assurance Committee, charged with protecting the rights of human subjects in research, reviewed and approved the project and its procedures.

SHELTER SURVEY PROCEDURES

Salvation Army

At the Salvation Army, on the nights of March 10 and July 19, 1988, a list of names of persons registered to stay for the night was given to the researchers. Names from the list drawn at randon were given to an available interview team. Potential informants were approached by the interview team with a request to participate in the study and offered $5.00 for their contributions. If the potential informant agreed to participate the interview began using the main questionnaire (see

Appendix A). If the individual declined to participate the right to refuse was respected. For those individuals whose names were drawn but could not be found within the shelter at that time, their names were returned into the pool of potential names to be drawn again. This process of drawing names, attempting to locate the individual drawn, requesting consent and conducting interviews was followed on a continuing basis from 5:00 - 9:00 P.M. on March 10 and July 19, 1988. On the evenings following each of the two survey nights, all names remaining in the pool were drawn and for individuals available in the shelter, the same procedure used the previous evening was carried out. No names of new residents on the second day were added to the pool of potential informants. In this way the sample drawn reflected the shelter population on the previous night. Every attempt was made to interview all women willing to participate because their numbers were small.

Augusta Rescue Mission

The shelter provided time and space for interviews from 7:00 - 7:45 p.m. On the evening of March 10, 1988, a list of names of persons willing to participate was given to the interview team. Potential informants were approached by the interview team with a request to participate in the study and an offer of $5.00 given. On the night of July 19, 1988 two interviewers were sent to the shelter and they followed the same procedures. The shelter was contacted on the evenings following the two survey nights to determine if any persons registered the previous night had returned to the shelter. There were none for either night.

STREET SURVEY PROCEDURES

The street survey on March 10, 1988 took place between 6:00 - 9:00 P.M. and 4:00- 6:00 A.M. the following morning. It was found that early evening and after dawn the next morning were the best times to contact and interview the homeless. For the July 19, 1988 survey, the time was adjusted to 5:00 - 10:00 P.M. and 5:00 - 8:30 A.M. based on the March experience. On both survey nights interview teams met at Augusta Police Headquarters. Sergeant Peter Lamb, in charge of police escorts for the interview teams, coordinated the street search and maintained communication with the police-escorted teams.

Teams were assigned to segments of the geographical area designated for the street survey. Block "sweeping" and screening were used to locate and identify the homeless. Coverage of a particular area included streets, alleys, loading decks, unfenced walkways, unlocked

occupied or unoccupied buildings, waiting areas in bus stations, the library, restaurants and like areas. The police escort searched buildings, hallways and other enclosed places. The officers had the responsibility for determining if a location, individual, or group of individuals were safe to approach. As individuals were encountered by the team, the police officer made an initial approach and introduced himself and the team. If the person approached was willing to talk with the interviewer, questions on a short screening questionnaire (see **Appendix B**) were asked to determine whether that individual was homeless. A person was considered homeless if he or she was planning on staying in Augusta for 24 hours and had no shelter.

Teams were instructed to screen as many persons as possible who were encountered walking, sitting, or lying down; whether inside a structure or outside, or, sleeping in a car or van. Persons found sleeping were gently awakened. The interview teams announced their purpose, assured the person encountered that no harm would come to him and requested his participation in the study. Instructions to the teams emphasized the necessity of speaking loudly enough to be heard, but not so much that persons would be alarmed; and to approach individuals from the front while keeping some distance and never touching them. The advocate member ensured that these procedures were implemented in a consistent manner. Local hospital emergency rooms were informed of the street surveys and were ready to assist in responding to any emergencies. Persons who responded to the night screener but were found not to be homeless were given $2.00 for their willingness to answer the questions. Those found to be homeless were interviewed using the main questionnaire (see **Appendix A**). At the completion of the main questionnaire the person was paid $5.00 and given information about services in the community. Those who wished to go to a shelter for the night were given transportation. In the instance where individuals said they were homeless, but declined to participate in an interview, they were included in the overall count. Also several individuals known to be homeless by the police or the security guard at the Augusta Library were included in the count even though they were not interviewed using the night screener.

Following the street surveys, teams met at police headquarters where counts and completed questionnaires were collected. Any concerns about people or conditions encountered on the street were discussed, including any follow-up action required.

Findings

Implementation of the street and shelter surveys proceeded as planned. Before the first survey night in March there was some uncertainty regarding the number of homeless that would be found, whether or not they would be willing to participate, and the extent to which we could expect to obtain the sought after information. As it turned out, the number of homeless we found on the street in March was smaller than anticipated. Most of the homeless in the shelters and on the streets were very cooperative and eager to tell their story. A majority of questionnaires were completed in enough detail to provide the information sought.

During the March evening hours, the Augusta Public Library on Greene Street was a site were several homeless persons were found. The night and early morning hours were foggy, cold and damp. While we found evidence of some persons having bedded down, only a few homeless persons were seen near these sites. We believed the cold night forced some of the homeless persons to stay mobile, while others most likely sought the warmth of the shelters. We were also aware that homeless men camped in highly secluded wooded areas along both sides of the Savannah River.

In contrast, during the July survey, the teams on the streets were busy interviewing homeless persons during the entire allotted time. Individuals were encountered in or near the library, in abandoned cars, and buildings. It was clear that the homeless population during this season included migrant farm workers.

TOTAL COUNTS AND SAMPLE

The total counts and samples for the two shelter and street surveys are presented in **Table 4**. The increase in the July survey numbers is suggestive of an increased homeless population during the summer months. Nine of those interviewed in July identified themselves as migrant farm workers. Discussions with interviewers suggested that a number of others may have come to the area for peach harvesting.

There were a total of ten individuals interviewed in March and again in July. Although the number of repeats might have been more if all those in the shelters could have been interviewed, the low number of repeats remains one of the more salient findings. The existence of only ten repeats suggests that the population is transient or changing over time. Several

factors can be cited as possibly contributing to a fluctuating homeless population. The most obvious factor we saw operating was the seasonal influx of individuals who work in harvesting crops. For example, one informant's account described his being transported from a New York City shelter to a South Carolina peach harvesting camp. Being disillusioned with his employment there, he made his way to Augusta hoping to find transportation back to New York.

Another perspective on a changing homeless population is the idea that people move between temporary marginal living arrangements and homelessness, and back again, depending on their circumstances. Still another view is that the low numbers of repeats in this study may be an indication that we were drawing only a small sample of Augusta's total literal homeless population.

Table 4 Total Counts and Samples

March 10, 1988

Location	Counts	Interviewed
Street	7	7
Salvation Army	45	42
Augusta Rescue Mission	11	2
TOTAL	63	51

July 19, 1988

Location	Counts	Interviewed	Repeats From 3/88
Street	33	26	4*
Salvation Army	72	41	6
Augusta Rescue Mission	14	4	0
TOTAL	119	71	10

*During the July survey two of the four persons on the street were previously interviewed in March while housed in the Salvation Army.

Not all individuals interviewed provided complete information on every item of the questionnaire. For this reason, some of the analyses presented in the following sections will not include every informant who

participated in the survey. The total number of individuals involved in each analysis varies somewhat and will be displayed in each table presenting findings.

Demographic Profile

Age - The average age of Augusta's homeless was 39.5 years (March) and 40.5 Years (July). A full presentation of the age distribution will be included in the final report.

Gender

Research on the homeless in other cities has consistently shown that the vast majority of this population are men (Research Atlanta, 1984; Rossi, Fisher, & Willis, 1986; Rosnow, Shaw & Concord, 1986). **Table 5** shows that we found a similar situation in Augusta.

Table 5 Gender Distribution (in percent)

Gender	March 1988	July 1988
Male	86.3	88.7
Female	13.7	11.3
	(N=51)	(N=71)

This finding will no doubt raise some questions in light of recent media reports stating that the number of homeless women is growing. Prior to the shelter and street surveys, professionals and volunteers interviewed in the key informant survey told us they were working with a substantial number of homeless women. There are several possible explanations for the low number of women found in the shelters and streets in downtown Augusta.

Augusta has only one special purpose shelter for women, the SAFE Homes shelter for battered women. As in most studies of the homeless, we did not consider this facility to be a primary shelter for the literal homeless. However, it is probable that some of the battered women being housed by SAFE Homes on the nights of the shelter and street surveys

would have fit our criteria for being interviewed. Another point for consideration is that larger metropolitan areas typically have shelters solely for homeless women. Such a shelter in Augusta would have the potential of bringing forth homeless women for services, who are now very difficult to find. Finally, our experience is that organizations recognizing the potential dangers for women and their children without housing, make every effort to find temporary arrangements for them. These considerations lead us to believe that there are many more women "making do" with unpredictable, and often undesirable living conditions than might be suggested by their numbers represented in our sample.

Race

The homeless people who responded to the questionnaire were read a list of ethnic/racial categories and asked to indicate which group described them best. Comparison of ethnic/racial composition of the March sample with that of July, (see **Table 6**) strongly suggests that the representation of the various groups is not static but changes depending on the migration patterns of the homeless. There was a marked diversity of ethnic groups represented in the summer survey. If an informant considered himself a member of group not listed, he was asked to specify which group would describe his racial/ethnic background. In July the "other" category included a Black Jamaican, a Black West Indian, a Black American Indian, and one individual who would only describe himself as a South African.

Table 6 Race and/or Ethnicity (in percent)

Race or Ethnicity	March 1988	July 1988
Hispanic White	2.0	1.4
Hispanic Black	0.0	2.8
Black American	39.2	53.5
American Indian	2.0	0.0
Asian or Pacific	0.0	0.0
White	56.9	36.6
Other	0.0	5.6
	(N=51)	(N=71)

Marital Status

A comparison of marital status patterns of the homeless with those of the general population of the city of Augusta reveals some striking contrasts (See **Table 7**). Whereas 61% of the overall city population are without spouses, over 90% of the homeless were not married. This finding underscores the unattached and solitary condition found among so many homeless people. In the subsequent final report, the extent to which informants had other close relationships with family or friends will be explored.

Table 7 Current Marital Status (in percent)

Marital Status	March 1988	July 1988	Augusta Census* 1980
Married	9.8	8.6	38.9
Divorced or Separated	45.1	32.9	15.3
Widowed	9.8	5.7	16.1
Single, Never Married	35.3	52.9	29.8
	(N=51)	(N=70)	(N=38,335)

*U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, General Characteristics of the Population, Augusta, Georgia, S.C. MSA - 1980.

Unemployment and Time Homeless

The informants were asked to think back to the last time they held a steady job, one that lasted for more than three months. When an informant was asked to say how long he had been homeless, he replied by identifying the last time he lived in an apartment, room or house. In responding to each of these questions, informants were asked to give the exact month and year to the best of their recollection. As shown in (**Table**

8), in March 1988 the average length of time since having a steady job was nearly four years and in July over two years. The average number of months homeless was two years (March) and over a year (July). The relationship between number of months unemployed and number of months homeless was statistically significant. Time unemployed was nearly twice the time homeless. It would appear that for many, the homeless state was preceded by a lengthy time of unemployment.

Table 8 Unemployment and Time Homeless (in months)

Measure	March 1988	July 1988
Average number of months since last steady job	45	29
Average number of months homeless	24	16
	(N=47)	(N=62)

Note: Pearson Correlation Coefficients were calculated for number of months unemployed and number of months homeless for the March sample (r=.54; p=<.05) and the July sample (r=.22; p=<.05).

Income

The homeless of Augusta are an extremely impoverished segment of the population. In the March and July surveys 25% of respondents reported no income at all in the previous month. Average incomes are summarized in **Table 9.** The low income level reported is clearly insufficient to meet basic needs for food, clothing and shelter.

TABLE 9 INCOME

Measure	March 1988	July 1988
Average cash income in past month from all sources	$166.02 (N=51)	$118.75 (N=71)

Mental Health and Substance Abuse

There has been much speculation regarding the relationship between deinstitutionalization of the mentally ill and the problem of homelessness in the 1980's. A national task force on the homeless mentally ill of the American Psychiatric Association estimated that approximately two-fifths of the homeless have a major mental disorder (Arce & Vergare, 1984). Almost all surveys of the homeless have sought to determine the proportion of mentally ill among the homeless population.

Researchers have used several different approaches in collecting data indicative of mental status. Psychiatric interviews, the inclusion of psychiatric rating scales within questionnaires, tracking utilization of psychiatric services, and previous history of psychiatric hospitalization are among the methods most frequently used. There are limitations to each of these methods. Psychiatric interviews with individuals in emergency shelters or on the streets are likely to reveal a great deal more psychiatric distress than interviews with the same individuals in more settled circumstances. Estimates derived from self-reported histories of psychiatric treatment are limited by the reluctance of some people to confide this information. Tracking users of mental health services among the homeless is problematic because of their geographical mobility.

Alcohol and drug abuse is recognized as a major national problem with consequences throughout society. It has long been recognized that alcoholism is endemic on skid row. The recent epidemic of crack cocaine abuse, especially in the inner cities, is contributing to an increasingly unpredictable social environment for the nation's poor. Research on the homeless has included a concern for the prevalence of alcohol and drug problems.

The questionnaire developed for the Chicago Homeless Study (Rossi, Fisher & Willis, 1986), and used in our Augusta surveys, included a self-report of psychiatric hospitalization, history of alcohol or drug treatment, and two brief rating scales for depression and other psychiatric symptoms. The findings for self-reported psychiatric hospitalization and alcohol or drug treatment are displayed in **Table 10**. Discussion of the rating scales for psychiatric symptoms and findings based on data collected, will be presented in the subsequent final report.

Table 10 **Mental Health and Substance Abuse Treatment Experiences Of Augusta's Homeless (in percent)**

Experiences	March 1988	July 1988
Been in a mental hospital overnight	23.5 (N=51)	27.5 (N=69)
Been in a detoxification unit or treatment center for alcohol or drug abuse	39.2 (N=51)	47.1 (N=70)

Several studies conducted in various parts of the country have described the homeless in terms of previous psychiatric hospitalization (see **Table 11**).

Table 11 **Mental Health Treatment Experiences Of The Homeless In Major U.S. Cities**

City or County (Source)	Percent with Acknowledged History of Psychiatric Hospitalization	N
Chicago (Rossi, Fisher, & Willis, 1986)	23.1	722
Los Angeles County (Gelberg, Linn & Leake, 1988)	29	529
Philadelphia (Arce, Tadlock, Vergare & Shapiro, 1983)	35	193
Baltimore (Fischer, Shapiro, Breakey, Anthony & Kramer, 1986)	33	51

A comparison of findings from cities presented in **Table 11** with our findings in **Table 10** indicates that Augusta's homeless population is not atypical on the variable of previous psychiatric hospitalization. Similarly the proportion of the population with a history of drug and alcohol problems is consistent with previous studies in different parts of the country (Rossi, Fisher, & Willis, 1986; Roth, Bean, Lust, & Saveanu, 1986; Stark, 1987).

Summary and Conclusions

This report summarized a portion of the findings from the Augusta Homeless Study. We found that the homeless in downtown Augusta were predominately male and unmarried. There were nearly twice as many homeless persons counted in shelters and on the streets during the July survey as in March. A comparison of shelter and street counts suggests that most of the literal homeless in the downtown area on a given night are to be found in the shelters. It appears that the street population of homeless increases significantly during the summer. This population is extremely poor with many reporting lengthy periods of unemployment and homelessness. As reported in other cities throughout the country, a substantial proportion of Augusta's homeless have had experiences with treatment in substance abuse and/or psychiatric settings.

A final report will be published subsequent to this report and will include additional findings in the areas of general health status, access to health care, mental health status, perceptions of shelter services, social networks, and experiences with the criminal justice system. Implications of the study findings for ameliorating the plight of the literal homeless in downtown Augusta will be explored in the closing section of the final report. The cooperation between many individuals representing a variety of sectors in the community was an impressive experience as the study unfolded. It was evident that Augustans are concerned about those who are destitute in our city. We also came away with a conviction that any comprehensive approach to revitalizing the downtown area must include attention to the multiple needs of the literal homeless congregating there.

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APPENDIX A

UMASS - NORC BASIC QUESTIONNAIRE

PHASE II
CONFIDENTIAL
UMASS-NORC HOMELESS STUDY-BASIC QUESTIONNAIRE

TRACT #_____BLOCK #_____
CASE SEQ._____DISP. CODE_____
INT ID_____TEAM #_____
NAME_____
SHELTER NAME_____

TIME _____AM
STARTED_____PM
DATE__/__/__

FOR SHELTER Rs:

Hello, I am (YOUR NAME) from the Medical College of Georgia. We are conducting a survey of homeless people here in Augusta and you have been chosen in our sample. We will need about fifteen minutes of your time. In return, we will give you $5.00 for participating.

Of course, any information you give us will be considered strictly confidential and will not be revealed to anyone outside of the research staff.

I need to begin by verifying that you are:_____
(RESPONDENT'S NAME)

FOR STREET CANVASS Rs:

We are especially interested in talking to persons like yourself who have no regular place that they live in. We will need about fifteen minutes of your time. In return, we will give you a total of $5.00 for participating.

Of course, any information you give us will be considered strictly confidential and will not be revealed to anyone outside of the research staff.

First of all, we want to know how long you have been homeless:

1. When was the last time you lived in an apartment, room, or house? Please tell me the exact month and year. (PROBE FOR MONTH AND YEAR)

MONTH YEAR

2. Was that an apartment, a room, a house, or some other kind of place?

APARTMENT.....1
ROOM.....2
HOUSE.....3
SOME OTHER KIND OF PLACE:
(SPECIFY)_____4
REFUSED.....7
DON'T KNOW.....8

3. Did you live in that place by yourself or did you live there with other people?

LIVED ALONE.(SKIP TO INSTR. ABOVE Q.4).....1
LIVED WITH OTHER PEOPLE....(ASK Q.3A).....2
REFUSED.....(SKIP TO INSTR. ABOVE Q.4)....7
DON'T KNOW..(SKIP TO INSTR. AVOVE Q.4).....8

3A. Who did you share that place with? Was it family or relatives, friends, or someone else? (CODE ALL THAT APPLY)

Specifically, was it with.....

SPOUSE.....01
CHILDREN.....02
PARENTS (MOTHER AND/OR FATHER).....03
SISTERS AND/OR BROTHERS.....04
GRANDPARENTS.....05
OTHER RELATIVES.....06
FRIENDS.....07
OTHER PERSONS: (SPECIFY)_____
_____08
REFUSED.....97
DON'T KNOW.....98

INTERVIEWER: IF HOMELESS SINCE 1983 OR EARLIER SKIP TO Q.5

4. You say you have been homeless since (READ DATE FROM Q. 1). Have there been other times before (READ DATE FROM Q. 1) when you have been homeless?

YES.....(ASK Q. 4A).....1
NO.....(SKIP TO Q. 5).....2
REFUSED.....(ASK Q. 4A).....7
DON'T KNOW..(ASK Q. 4A).....8

4A. FOR EACH YEAR AFTER 1983 AND BEFORE YEAR FROM Q. 1, ASK...

Were you homeless at any time during..

	YES	NO	REFUSED	DK	NOT APPLICABLE
1987.....	1	2	7	8	9
1986.....	1	2	7	8	9
1985.....	1	2	7	8	9
1984.....	1	2	7	8	9

5. All told, how long have you lived in Augusta? (PROBE FOR TOTAL TIME. CIRCLE ONLY ONE.)

A WEEK OR LESS.....01
1 TO 3 WEEKS.....02
ONE TO FIVE MONTHS.....03
SIX MONTHS TO ELEVEN MONTHS.....04
ONE TO FIVE YEARS.....05
SIX TO TEN YEARS.....06
TEN OR MORE YEARS.....07
REFUSED.....97
DON'T KNOW.....98

6. Do you usually sleep or rest during the day, or at night, or both during the day and at night?

DAY.....1
NIGHT.....2
BOTH DAY AND NIGHT.....3
REFUSED.....7
DON'T KNOW.....8

7. Where are you planning on sleeping or resting over the next 24 hours? (CODE ALL THAT APPLY)

SHELTER: Which one?_____01
STREET, PARK OR OTHER OPEN PLACE.....02
PUBLIC PLACE (BUSES, BUS STATION, AIRPORT, ALL NIGHT MOVIE, BAR, ETC).....03
SOMEONE'S ROOM, APARTMENT OR HOUSE.....04
AN ABANDONED BUILDING.....05
A CAR, VAN, OR TRUCK.....06
SOMEPLACE ELSE: SPECIFY_____07
REFUSED.....97
DON'T KNOW.....98

INTERVIEWER:
IF CONDUCTING INTERVIEW IN SHELTER, SKIP TO Q.12

IF CONDUCTING INTERVIEW ON STREET. GO TO Q.8-Q.11.

8. Do you know the location of any shelters in Augusta, places that are for the use of homeless persons like yourself for sleeping or resting?

YES, KNOWS OF SHELTER.....(GO TO Q.9).....1
NO, DOES NOT KNOW OF SHELTER(SKIP TO Q.12).....2
REFUSED.....(GO TO Q. 9).....7
DON'T KNOW.....(GO TO Q. 9).....8

9. Over the last year, have you tried to get into a shelter for sleeping or resting?

YES, HAVE TRIED.....(GO TO Q. 10).....1
NO, HAVE NOT TRIED.....(ASK Q.9A).....2
REFUSED.....(ASK Q. 9A).....7
DON'T KNOW.....(ASK Q. 9A).....8

9A. Why haven't you tried to get into a shelter?

_____
_____

SKIP TO Q.12

10. Over the last year, have you ever been refused admissions to a shelter for any reason?

YES...(GO TO Q.11).....1
NO...(SKIP TO Q. 12).....2
REFUSED.....(GO TO Q.11).....7
DON'T KNOW.....(GO TO Q. 11).....8

11. Why were you turned away by the shelter?

_____

_____

FOR ALL Rs:

12. I am going to read you some opinions about Augusta shelters that some homeless persons have. Please tell me if you agree or disagree with each of these opinions:

		AGREE	DISAGREE	REFUSED	DON'T KNOW
A.	The shelters are the only places a person like me can get a decent place to sleep.	1	2	7	8
B.	The shelters are dangerous because you can easily get robbed or beaten up there.	1	2	7	8
C.	The shelters take in everyone who needs a place to sleep.	1	2	7	8
D.	The shelters are so dirty I would rather sleep on the streets in a public place.	1	2	7	8
E.	The shelters only take in persons who look respectable, so the homeless who really need help are refused.	1	2	7	8
F.	There is too much emphasis on religion in the shelters.	1	2	7	8
G.	The shelters can really help homeless persons to get back on their feet.	1	2	7	8
H.	There is not enough freedom to do what you want in the shelters.	1	2	7	8

13. Over the last seven days, that is, since last (DAY OF INTERVIEW), how many times did you sleep or rest.....

	TIMES PER WEEK
in a shelter?	_____
in a rented room?	_____
on the streets, in a park?	_____
in a bus, bus station, all night movie, airport, bar or some other public place?	_____
in a family member's or relative's home?	_____
in someone else's home or apartment?	_____
in an empty or abandoned building?	_____
ELSEWHERE: SPECIFY:_____	_____
TOTAL	_____

14. In the past seven days, have you worked for pay?

YES.....(SKIP TO Q.15).....1
NO.....(ASK Q.14A).....2
REFUSED.....(ASK Q. 14A).....7
DON'T KNOW.(ASK Q. 14A).....8

14A. Have you worked at all for pay at any time over the last thirty days?

YES.....(GO TO Q.15).....1
NO.....(SKIP TO Q.16).....2
REFUSED.....(GO TO Q.15).....7
DON'T KNOW...(GO TO Q. 15).....8

15. What kind of work (do/did) you do? (PROBE FOR COMPLETE JOB DESCRIPTION. E.G., "SELLING NEWSPAPERS ON STREET CORNER", NOT "AUGUSTA CHRONICLE" WHICH IS THE NAME OF AN EMPLOYER).

_____
_____

16. Think back to the last time you held a steady job, that is, a job that lasted for more than three months.

16A. Please tell me when you finished or left that job? (GET MONTH AND YEAR).

MONTH YEAR (ASK Q. 16B)

PRESENT JOB IS A STEADY JOB....(SKIP TO Q.17).....0000
NEVER HELD A STEADY JOB.....(SKIP TO Q. 17).....9999
REFUSED.....(ASK Q. 16B)..... 9797
DON'T KNOW.....(ASK Q.16B).....9898

16B. What kind of work was it that you were doing? (PROBE FOR COMPLETE DESCRIPTION, E.G., NOT "AUGUSTA CHRONICLE BUT "SELLING NEWSPAPERS ON STREET CORNER")

_____
_____
_____

17. How many years of schooling did you complete?

0-7...DID NOT FINISH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.....1
8-11...DID NOT GRADUATE HIGH SCHOOL.....2
12-HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE OR GED.....3
13-15-SOME COLLEGE OR POST HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION.....4
16-COLLEGE GRADUATE.....5
17 OR MORE--COLLEGE GRADUATE PLUS POST GRADUATE OR PROFESSIONAL TRAINING.....6
REFUSED.....7
DON'T KNOW.....8

18. Over the last 30 days, have you received any money from General Assistance?

YES.....(SKIP TO Q. 19).....1
NO.....(ASK Q. 18A).....2
REFUSED.....(ASK Q. 18A).....7
DON'T KNOW.....(ASK Q. 18A).....8

18A. Have you ever applied for General Assistance?

YES.....(ASK Q. 18B).....1
NO.....(SKIP TO Q. 19).....2
REFUSED.....(SKIP TO Q. 19).....7
DON'T KNOW.....(SKIP TO Q. 19).....8

18B. When you applied for General Assistance the last time, did you get payments or were you turned down?

RECEIVED PAYMENTS.....1
TURNED DOWN.....2
APPLICATION PENDING.....3
REFUSED.....7
DON'T KNOW.....8

19. Over the last 30 days, have you received any money from AFDC?

YES.....(SKIP TO Q. 20).....1
NO.....(ASK Q. 19A).....2
REFUSED.....(ASK Q. 19A).....7
DON'T KNOW.....(ASK Q. 19A).....

19A. Have you ever applied for AFDC?

YES.....(ASK Q. 19B).....1
NO.....(SKIP TO Q. 20).....2
REFUSED.....(SKIP TO Q. 20).....7
DON'T KNOW.....(SKIP TO Q. 20).....8

19B. When you applied for AFDC did you get payments or were you turned down?

RECEIVED PAYMENTS.....1
TURNED DOWN.....2
APPLICATION PENDING.....3
REFUSED.....7
DON'T KNOW.....8

20. Over the last 30 days, have you received any cash, checks, or money orders from.....

		YES	NO	REFUSED	DON'T KNOW
a.	your relatives or family?	1	2	7	8
b.	your friends?	1	2	7	8
c.	unemployment insurance	1	2	7	8
d.	SSI (not including old age pension)?	1	2	7	8
e.	Social Security or other old age pension or veterans benefits?	1	2	7	8
f.	disability payments or workmen's compensation	1	2	7	8
g.	working at a job like in a factory, or selling newspapers or other things?	1	2	7	8
h.	trading or swapping things with other people?	1	2	7	8
i.	gifts?	1	2	7	8
j.	handouts?	1	2	7	8
k.	some other sources?	1	2	7	8

SPECIFY:_____

_____

21. In the last 30 days, approximately how much money did you get from all of the sources we just talked about, including General Assistance and AFDC?

_____

_____

22. In the last 30 days, have you received any of the following kinds of help?

		Yes	NO	REFUSED	DON'T KNOW
a.	Food stamps?	1	2	7	8
b.	Clothing	1	2	7	8
c.	Free meals?	1	2	7	8
d.	An offer to share a place to live in?	1	2	7	8
e.	Something valuable that you could sell	1	2	7	8

23. In the last 30 days, was there any time when you didn't get anything, or barely anything, to eat for 2 days or more?

YES.....1
NO.....2
REFUSED.....3
DON'T KNOW.....4

24. I am going to read to you a list of experiences many people have had. For each one, tell me whether you have ever had that experience.

	Have you ever...	YES	NO	REFUSED	DON'T KNOW
a.	Been in the military, including the reserve?	1	2	7	8
b.	Been a patient in a detoxification (detox) or treatment center for alcohol or drug abuse?	1	2	7	8
c.	Served time in a state or federal prison?	1	2	7	8
d.	Been in a city or county jail for more than three or four days?	1	2	7	8
e.	Been placed on probation by a court order?	1	2	7	8

25. Have you ever been admitted to a mental hospital so that you stayed overnight?

YES.....(ASK Q. 25A-H).....1
NO.....(SKIP TO Q.26).....2
REFUSED.....(SKIP TO 25A-H).....7
DON'T KNOW...(ASK Q.25A-H).....8

25A. How many times have you ever gone to a mental hospital?

_____(NUMBER OF TIMES)

25B. What is the name of the mental hospital where you were a patient (most recently)? And what city and state is that in? (PROBE FOR NAME, CITY AND STATE)

_____(NAME)
_____(CITY AND STATE)

25C. When were you (last) discharged from a mental hospital? (PROBE FOR MONTH AND YEAR)

MONTH YEAR

25D. When you left the hospital, were any living arrangements made for you by the hospital or some other agency?

YES.....1
NO.....2
REFUSED.....7
DON'T KNOW.....8

25E. The last time you left the hospital, where did you go to live? (CIRCLE ONLY ONE)

TO YOUR OWN APARTMENT OR HOUSE.....01
TO YOUR FAMILY'S OR RELATIVE'S HOUSE OR OR APARTMENT.....02
TO A RESIDENTIAL GROUP HOME OR APARTMENT PROGRAM.....03
TO A NURSING HOME.....04
TO A HOTEL OR MOTEL.....05
TO A ROOM AND BOARD FACILITY.....06
TO AN EMERGENCY SHELTER.....07
TO SOMEWHERE ELSE(SPECIFY)_____08
REFUSED.....97
DON'T KNOW.....98

25F. In the time since your (last) discharge from a mental hospital, have you gone to or telephoned a community mental health center or clinic?

YES.....(ASK Q. 25G).....1
NO.....(SKIP TO Q. 25H).....2
REFUSED.....(ASK TO Q. 25G).....7
DON'T KNOW..(ASK Q.25G).....8

25G. Did you first contact the mental health center or clinic or did the center or clinic contact you?

RE INITIATED CONTACT.....1
CENTER OR CLINIC INITIATED CONTACT.....2
REFUSED.....7
DON'T KNOW.....8

25H. Do you know where the community health center or clinic is?

YES.....1
NO.....2
REFUSED.....7
DON'T KNOW.....8

ALL RESPONDENTS

26. What is your present marital status? (READ EACH ALTERNATIVE) Are you...

Married and neither divorced nor separated.....(ASK Q.26B).....1
Divorced or separated.....(ASK Q. 26A).....2
Widowed.....(SKIP TO Q. 27)....3
Single and never married.....(SKIP TO Q. 27).....4
REFUSED.....(ASK Q. 26A).....7
DON'T KNOW.....(ASK Q. 26A).....8

26A. Is your (ex-husband/ex-wife) still living?

YES.....(ASK Q. 26B).....1
NO.....(SKIP TO Q. 27).....2
REFUSED.....(ASK Q. 26B).....7
DON'T KNOW.....(ASK Q. 26B).....8

26B. Do you visit with, talk to or write your (husband/wife, ex-husband/ex-wife) at least once every two or three months?

YES.....1
NO.....2
REFUSED.....7
DON'T KNOW.....8

26C. Does your (husband/wife, ex/husband/ex-wife) live in Augusta or a Augusta suburb?

YES.....1
NO.....2
REFUSED.....7
DON'T KNOW.....8

27. How many children have you (fathered/given birth to)?

_____(NUMBERED)

NONE.....(SKIP TO Q. 29).....00

28. (Is/Are) any of your children still alive?

YES.....(ASK Q.28A).....1
NO.....(SKIP TO Q.29).....2
REFUSED.....(ASK Q. 28A).....7
DON'T KNOW.....(ASK Q. 28A).....8

28A. Do you visit with, talk to or write to (his/her/them) at least once every two or three months?

YES.....1
NO.....2
REFUSED.....7
DON'T KNOW.....8

28B. (Does/Do) (he/she/they) live in Augusta or a Augusta suburb?

YES.....1
NO.....2
REFUSED.....7
DON'T KNOW.....8

29. Some people have many relatives and friends and others have only a few. How about you?

FOR EACH YES IN A,
ASK B AND C

	A. Do you have...			B. Do you visit, talk to or write to him/her/ them at least once every two or three months			C Does/Do he/she they live in Augusta or a Augusta suburb		
	YES	NO	DK	YES	NO	DK	YES	NO	DK
One or both parents living?	1	2	8	1	2	8	1	2	8
One or more brothers or sisters living?	1	2	8	1	2	8	1	2	8
Others relatives such as grand-parents, aunts, uncles or cousins?	1	2	8	1	2	8	1	2	8
One or more friends you can count on?	1	2	8	1	2	8	1	2	8

30. IS R IN TOUCH WITH PARENTS, OR SIBLINGS, OR OTHER RELATIVES LIVING IN AUGUSTA?

YES.....(ASK Q. 30A & 30B).....1
NO.....(SKIP TO Q. 31).....2

30A. You mentioned that you have (parents/brothers or sisters/other relatives) here in Augusta. Assuming that they would want to and have the room, would you be opposed to or in favor of going to live with them?

OPPOSED.....1
IN FAVOR.....2
REFUSED.....7
DON'T KNOW.....8

30B. As far as you know, would your (parents/brothers/ or sisters/ other relatives) here in Augusta be opposed to or in favor of your moving in with them?

OPPOSED.....1
IN FAVOR.....2
REFUSED.....7
DON'T KNOW.....8

ALL RESPONDENTS

31. Would you say your health, in general, now is excellent, good, or fair, or poor?

EXCELLENT.....1
GOOD.....2
FAIR.....3
POOR.....4
REFUSED.....7
DON'T KNOW.....8

32. During the past year, that is since (DATE ONE YEAR AGO) have you been a patient overnight in a hospital, a nursing home or a treatment center? Do not include mental hospitals.

YES.....(ASK TO Q.32A).....1
NO.....(SKIP TO 33).....2
REFUSED.....(ASK Q. 32A).....7
DON'T KNOW...(ASK Q. 32A).....8

32A. Were there any health services you needed after you left the hospital that you were unable to get?

YES.....(ASK Q. 32B).....1
NO.....(SKIP TO 33).....2
REFUSED.....(ASK Q. 32B).....7
DON'T KNOW.....(ASK Q. 32B).....8

32B. Did you actually try to obtain these services?

YES.....(ASK Q. 32C).....1
NO.....(SKIP TO Q. 33).....2
REFUSED.....(ASK Q. 32C).....7
DON'T KNOW....(ASK Q. 32C).....8

32C. Why were you unable to get these services?

LACK OF MONEY/FINANCIAL REASONS.....1
OTHER, NON-FINANCIAL REASONS.....2
REFUSED.....7
DON'T KNOW.....8

32D. Did the lack of these services cause you substantial discomfort, pain, or disability?

YES.....1
NO.....2
REFUSED.....7
DON'T KNOW.....8

33. When was the last time you saw a doctor or nurse in an office, clinic or emergency room? GET MONTH AND YEAR.

MONTH YEAR

34. Is there one person or place in particular you usually go to when you are sick or want advice about your health?

YES.....1
NO.....2
REFUSED.....7
DON'T KNOW.....8

35. In case you needed some medical attention, where would you go to get it?

_____
_____
_____

36. Over the last year, since (DATE ONE YEAR AGO), was there any time when you needed or thought you needed medical care but could not get it?

YES.....1
NO.....2
REFUSED.....7
DON'T KNOW.....8

37. Now, I am going to ask some questions about how you felt over the last week. Tell me whether you never felt that way last week, felt that way some of the time last week, or felt that way most of the time last week.

	NEVER	SOME OF THE TIME	MOST OF THE TIME	REFUSED	DON'T KNOW
A. Was your appetite so poor that you did not feel like eating?	1	2	3	7	8
B. Did you feel so tired and worn out that you could not enjoy anything?	1	2	3	7	8
C. Did you feel depressed?	1	2	3	7	8
D. Did you feel unhappy about the way your life is going?	1	2	3	7	8
E. Did you feel discouraged and worried about your future?	1	2	3	7	8
F. Did you feel lonely?	1	2	3	7	8

38. Was there ever a time in your life when you felt so bad that your tried to kill yourself, that is, tried to commit suicide?

YES.....(ASK Q. 38A).....1
NO.....(SKIP TO Q. 39).....2
REFUSED.....(ASK Q. 38A).....7
DON'T KNOW..(ASK Q. 38A).....8

38A. How many times in your life did you make a suicide attempt?

TIMES

39. Did you have any thoughts about committing suicide recently, that is, in the last week or so?

YES.....1
NO.....2
REFUSED.....7
DON'T KNOW.....8

40. Now I am going to ask you about some ideas and feelings that some people have had during their lifetime. Some people get these ideas and feelings after they have been drinking or taking drugs. Over the last year, how often have you had each of these ideas or feelings when you have not been drinking or taking drugs? Never? Once in a while? Or, most of the time?

		NEVER	SOME OF THE TIME	MOST OF THE TIME	REFUSED	DON'T KNOW
A.	Have you ever heard noises or voices that other people say they can't hear?	1	2	3	7	8
B.	Have you ever felt that there were people who wanted to harm or hurt you?	1	2	3	7	8
C.	Have you ever had visions or seen things that other people say they can't see?	1	2	3	7	8
D.	Have you ever felt that you had special powers that other people don't have?	1	2	3	7	8
E.	Have you ever felt that your mind was taken over by forces you couldn't control?	1	2	3	7	8

41. In case you needed some help with a mental problem, such as depression or suicidal feelings, where would you go to get it?

_____

_____

42. What is your date of birth? (PROBE FOR MONTH, DAY, AND YEAR)

MONTH DAY YEAR

43. Are you by yourself or do you have some family--(husband/wife) children or some other relatives or friends who are also homeless with you? (CIRCLE ALL THAT APPLY)

R IS BY HER/HIMSELF.....1
CHILDREN: How Many?(SPECIFY):_____2
SPOUSE.....3
OTHER RELATIVE: (SPECIFY):_____4
NON-FAMILY (SPECIFY):_____5
REFUSED.....7
DON'T KNOW.....8

43A. INTERVIEWER: HOW MANY CHILDREN ARE PHYSICALLY PRESENT WITH R:

44. Do you consider yourself to be.....

Hispanic White.....01
Hispanic Black.....02
Black American.....03
American Indian.....04
Asian or Pacific Islander.....05
White.....06
Something else (SPECIFY):_____07
Refused.....97
Don't Know.....98

45. In what city or county and state were you born?

_____
(CITY) (COUNTRY)

_____
(STATE) (COUNTRY)

46. Do you have an address where we could send you mail in case we need to get in touch with you?

HAS ADDRESS.....(ASK Q. 47A AND A.47B).....1
NO ADDRESS.....(GO TO TERMINATION PARAGRAPH..2

46A. What is that address?

_____
(NUMBER OR PO BOX) (STREET)

_____
(CITY) (STATE) (ZIP)

46B. Is that the address of a shelter, or some other agency, or a business like a currency exchange or bank, or the address of someone you know?

Shelter or other helping agency.....1
Commercial organizations (currency exchange, bank, etc.).....2
Some private person: RECORD RELATIONSHIP TO R
_____3

TERMINATION PARAGRAPH: Those are all questions I have for you. Thank you very much for your time and participation. Let me assure you again that all the information you have given will be kept strictly confidential. Good night.

TIME FINISHED AM PM

INT NAME:_____

INT ID #: _____

INTERVIEWERS REMARKS

47. GENDER

MALE.....1
FEMALE.....2
DON'T KNOW.....8

48. RACE

WHITE.....1
BLACK.....2
AMERICAN INDIAN.....3
OTHER SPECIFY_____4
DON'T KNOW.....8

GO TO Q. 47-51

49. DID R APPEAR TO BE.....(CIRCLE ALL THAT APPLY)

DRUNK.....1
UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF DRUGS.....2
SERIOUSLY ILL.....3
CONFUSED.....4
INCOHERENT.....5
DIRTY AND UNKEPT.....6
SHABBILY DRESSED.....7
CARRYING PACKAGES WITH PERSONAL BELONGINGS.....8
LUCID AND ALERT.....9
NEAT AND CLEAN.....10

50. R'S LOCATION WHEN CONTACTED FOR INTERVIEW (CIRCLE ONE):

SIDEWALK, STREET, OR ALLEY.....1
PARK.....2
IN PUBLIC ACCESS BUILDING (E.G., BUS OR TRAIN STATION, LOBBY OF APARTMENT, BAR, THEATER, ETC.).....3
IN INNER HALLWAY, BASEMENT, ETC. OF OCCUPIED BUILDING.....4
IN ABANDONED BUILDING.....5
UNDER BRIDGE, IN TUNNEL, OR UNDER VIADUCT.....6
CONSTRUCTION SITE.....7
PARKING LOT.....8
IN PARKED CAR.....9
ON BICYCLE.....10
OTHER (SPECIFY)_____
_____11

51. INTERVIEWER COMMENTS:

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

_____

52. FOR BREAKOFFS ONLY:

INDICATE THE REASONS FOR THE BREAKOFF AND ESTIMATE R'S AGE:

_____
_____

R'S APPROXIMATE AGE:_____

APPENDIX B

UMASS - NORC NIGHT SCREENER

PHASE II
UMASS-NORC HOMELESSNESS STUDY: NIGHT SCREENER

TRACT #_____ BLOCK # _____ TIME _____AM
CASE SEQ._____ DISP CODE____ STARTED_____PM
TEAM # _____ INT ID _____ DATE __/__/ ___
NAME_____

INTERVIEWER: CHECK STATUS OF R WHEN YOU BEGAN INTERVIEW

R WAS WALKING WHEN APPROACHED.....1
R WAS LYING OR SITTING WHEN APPROACHED.....2

Hello, I'm (YOUR NAME), I am working with the Medical College of Georgia. I'd like to pay you to answer questions for a survey we're doing about housing used by people in Augusta. All of your answers will be kept strictly confidential. First, please tell me...

1. Are you a resident of the city of Augusta?

YES..... (SKIP TO Q. 4)..... 1
NO..... (GO TO Q. 2)..... 2
REFUSED.. (GO TO Q. 2) 7
DON.T KNOW..(GO TO Q. 2)..... 8

NON-RESIDENTS

2. Where do you live, In what city and state?

CITY:_____
STATE:_____

IF R LIVES IN CITY OF AUGUSTA, CHANGE Q. 1 TO YES AND SKIP TO Q. 4

3. INTERVIEWER: CODE STATUS OF R WHEN YOU BEGAN INTERVIEW

R WAS ASLEEP.....(SKIP TO Q. 3C)..... 1
R WAS NOT ASLEEP.(ASK Q. 3A)..... 2

3A. Are you planning to sleep in the city of Augusta sometime in the next 24 hours?

YES.....(ASK Q. 3B AND Q. 3C).....1
NO.....(SKIP TO BOX 1) 2
REFUSED.(ASK Q. 3B & 3C)..... 7
DON'T KNOW.(ASK Q. 3B & Q.3C)..... 8

3B. Will you sleep in a hotel or motel room a shelter, friend's or relative's place or some other place?

HOTEL/MOTEL ROOM..... 1
SHELTER..... 2
FRIEND'S OR RELATIVE'S PLACE..... 3
SOME OTHER PLACE (SPECIFY WHERE) :
_____ 4
REFUSED..... 7
DON'T KNOW..... 8

3C. How long are you planning on staying in the city of Augusta? (PROBE: Would you say that you are planning on staying in the city of Augusta for ...)

24 hours or less..... 1
1 to 7 days..... 2
More than a week.....3
REFUSED..... 7
DON'T KNOW..... 8

BOX 1

INTERVIEWER: IS R NON-RESIDENT WHO PLANS TO STAY IN AUGUSTA MORE THAN 24 HOURS

AND

WAS ASLEEP OR PLANS TO SLEEP IN A SHELTER OR HAS NO REGULAR PLACE TO SLEEP?

YES... HOMELESS (SKIP TO BOX 4 ON P. 6 CLASSIFY AS HOMELESS, AND PROCEED TO MAIN QUEX)..... 1

NO..... HOMED (SKIP TO BOX 4 ON P. 6, CLASSFY AS HOMED, AND READ TERMINATION PARAGRAPH)..... 2

FOR AUGUSTA RESIDENTS ONLY:

4. As of today, do you have some place here in Augusta that you consider to be your home or the place where you live?

YES.....(ASK Q. 4A).....1
NO.....(SKIP TO Q. 5)..... 2
REFUSED.(ASK Q. 4A).....7
DON'T KNOW. (ASK Q. 4A).....8

4A. Is that a room, an apartment, a house, a shelter, or a spot in some public place such as a park bench or a bench in a bus station? (PROBE UNTIL YOU GET AN ANSWER THAT INDICATES R IS DEFINITELY LIVING IN AN APARTMENT, HOUSE, OR ROOM, OR NOT LIVING IN SUCH PLACES)

A room.....(ASK Q. 4B).....01
An apartment..(ASK Q. 4B).....02
A house.....(ASK Q. 4B).....03
A spot in a public place....(SKIP TO Q. 5).....04
A shelter..... (SKIP TO Q. 5).....05
The streets.....(SKIP TO Q. 5).....06
An abandoned building.....(SKIP TO Q. 5).....07
A car or truck.....(SKIP TO Q. 5).....08
Some other place (SPECIFY): (SKIP TO Q. 5)
_____09
REFUSED.....97
DON'T KNOW.....98

4B. Is that your own place, or someone else's place? By "own place", we mean that you pay to stay there, even if someone else owns the place.

Own place.....(G0 TO BOX 2)..... 1
Someone else's place...(ASK Q. 4C)..... 2
REFUSED..... 7
DON'T KNOW..... 8

BOX 2

INTERVIEWER: IF R IS A AUGUSTAN WHO HAS HIS OWN PLACE WHICH IS A ROOM, APARTMENT OR HOUSE.

THEN SKIP TO BOX 4 ON P. 6, CLASSIFY AS HOMED, AND READ TERMINATION PARAGRAPH

4C. Is that your parents' place, some other relative's place, a friend's place, or someone else's place?

Parents' 1
Other relative's..... 2
Friend's..... 3
Someone else's (SPECIFY:)_____ 4
REFUSED..... 7
DON'T KNOW..... 8

4D. How often do you use that place for sleeping? Would you say every day, almost every day, once or twice a week, or less than once a week?

Every day.....(ASK Q. 4E).....1
Almost every day..... (ASK Q. 4E)..... 2
Once or twice a week...(SKIP TO Q. 5)..... 3
Less than a week.....(SKIP TO Q. 5).....4
REFUSED.....(SKIP TO Q. 5)..... 7
DON'T KNOW.....(SKIP TO Q. 5)..... 8

4E. Do you have an arrangement with your (parents/relatives/friends/ someone else) to sleep in their place on a regular basis?

YES.....(GO TO BOX 3)..... 1
NO.....(SKIP TO Q. 5)..... 2
REFUSED.....(SKIP TO Q. 5)..... 7
DON'T KNOW.....(SKIP TO Q. 5)..... .8

BOX 3

INTERVIEWER: IF R IS A AUGUSTAN WHOSE HOME IS SOMEONE ELSE'S PLACE BUT R SLEEPS THERE EVERY DAY OR ALMOST EVERY DAY AND THIS IS REGULAR ARRANGEMENT.

THEN SKIP TO BOX 4 ON P. 6, CLASSIFY AS HOMED, AND READ TERMINATION PARAGRAPH

5. Where do you usually sleep? (C0DE AS MANY AS APPLY)

SHELTER..... 01
STREET, PARK OR OTHER OPEN SPACE..... 02
PUBLIC PLACE (BUS STATIONS, BUSES,
ALL NIGHT MOVIES, AIRPORTS, BAR, ETC.)..... 03
DORMITORY HOTEL (FLOPHOUSE, OR OTHER
PLACE WITHOUT SEPARATE ROOMS)..... 04
HOTEL (SEPARATE ROOMS FOR CLIENTS)..... 05
ABANDONED BUILDING..... 06
CAR OR TRUCK..... 07
SOME OTHER PLACE: SPECIFY_____
_____ 08
REFUSED TO ANSWER ENTIRE QUESTION..... 97
DON'T KNOW..... 98

BOX 4

SCREENING INTERVIEW OUTCOME:

CIRCLE APPROPRIATE NUMBER BELOW AND PROCEED ACCORDINGLY.

R IS HOMELESS ----------

Resident who has no place he considers home:

or whose home is neither a room, an apartment nor a house;

or whose room, apartment or house its not his own, and he either stays there twice a week or less or has no arrangement to sleep there regularly.

Non-resident who plans to stay in Augusta more than 24 hours and either plans to sleep in a shelter or has no regular place to sleep.....1

R IS HOMED----------

(READ TERMINATION PARAGRAPH BELOW.....2

TERMINATION PARAGRAPH: Those are all the questions I have for you. Thank you very much for your time and participation. Let me assure you again that all the information you have given will be kept strictly confidential. Good-night.

---

6. INTERVIEWER: IN YOUR OPINION, WAS R TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT HIS OR HER HOMELESS STATUS?

YES.....1
NO.....2

IF HOMELESS, PROCEED TO MAIN QUEX

IF HOMED, COMPLETE Q7B-Q12.